

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1701

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ROBERTS.

3232H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 304.820, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the use of electronic wireless communications devices, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 304.820, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 304.822, to read as follows:

304.822. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Electronic message", a self-contained piece of digital communication that is designed or intended to be transmitted via an electronic wireless communications device, which includes, but is not limited to, email, a text message, an instant message, or a command or request to access an internet site;

(2) "Electronic wireless communications device", includes, but is not limited to, a cell phone, personal digital assistant, electronic device with mobile data access, laptop computer, pager, broadband personal communications device, electronic game, or portable computing device. An "electronic wireless communications device" shall not include:

(a) A global navigation satellite system receiver used for positioning, emergency notification, or navigation purposes; or

(b) Two-way or citizen band radio services;

(3) "Hands-free electronic wireless communications device", a wireless communications device that has an internal feature or function, or that is equipped with an attachment or addition, regardless of whether permanently part of such mobile electronic device, by which a user engages with the device without the use of either

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in bold-face type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 hand; provided, however, this definition shall not preclude the use of either hand merely
19 to activate, deactivate, or initiate a function of the device;

20 (4) "Highway", any public thoroughfare for vehicles including, but not limited
21 to, state roads, county roads, public streets, avenues, boulevards, parkways, or alleys in
22 any municipality;

23 (5) "Operating", physically driving or operating a motor vehicle on a highway,
24 including operation while temporarily stationary because of traffic, a traffic light or
25 stop sign, or otherwise. A person is not "operating" a motor vehicle for purposes of this
26 section when the vehicle is pulled over to the side of or off a highway and is stopped in a
27 location where it can safely remain stationary.

28 2. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person operating a
29 noncommercial motor vehicle, as such term is defined in section 302.700, upon the
30 highways of this state shall not use any hand-held electronic wireless communications
31 device while operating such vehicle. Prohibited uses shall include, but not be limited to
32 reading, composing, viewing, or posting any electronic message; initiating, receiving, or
33 conducting a conversation; or manually typing data into any electronic wireless
34 communications device.

35 3. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person shall operate a
36 commercial motor vehicle, as that term is defined in section 302.700, upon the highways
37 of this state while using a hand-held mobile telephone.

38 4. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person shall operate a
39 commercial motor vehicle, as that term is defined in section 302.700, upon the highways
40 of this state while using a hands-free electronic wireless communications device to send,
41 read, or write a text message or electronic message unless such message can be
42 accomplished by touching a single button and the driver remains seated and properly
43 restrained by a seat belt.

44 5. The provisions of subsections 2 to 4 of this section shall not apply to a person
45 operating:

46 (1) An authorized emergency vehicle, as defined in section 304.022;

47 (2) A motor vehicle that is responding to another motor vehicle's request for
48 roadside assistance upon the highways of this state when such response is conducted in
49 the course and scope of a commercial activity; or

50 (3) A motor vehicle while using a hand-held electronic wireless communications
51 device to:

52 (a) Contact emergency services; or

53 (b) Relay information between a transit or for-hire motor vehicle operator and
54 that operator's dispatcher when the device is affixed to the motor vehicle.

55 **6. Nothing contained in subsection 2 of this section shall be construed or**
56 **interpreted to prohibit a person operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, as such term**
57 **is defined in section 302.700, on the highways of this state from using a hands-free**
58 **electronic wireless communications device when the operator is not holding the hands-**
59 **free electronic wireless communications device in the operator's hand or hands, except**
60 **the operator shall not have his or her attention diverted from the lawful operation of the**
61 **noncommercial motor vehicle. The provisions of subsection 2 shall not prohibit the use**
62 **of either hand merely to activate, deactivate, or initiate a function of a hands-free**
63 **electronic wireless communications device while operating a noncommercial motor**
64 **vehicle.**

65 **7. A violation of this section shall be deemed an infraction punishable by a fifty-**
66 **dollar fine. A violation of this section while operating a motor vehicle in a work zone, as**
67 **defined in section 304.580, when highway workers, as defined in section 304.580, are**
68 **present, or in an area designated as a school zone and marked in any way to alert a**
69 **reasonably prudent driver to the presence of such school zone, shall be deemed an**
70 **infraction punishable by a one-hundred-dollar fine. A violation of subsection 2 of this**
71 **section shall not be deemed a moving violation for purposes of point assessment under**
72 **section 302.302; however, a violation of subsection 3 or 4 of this section shall be deemed**
73 **a serious traffic violation, as defined in section 302.700, for purposes of commercial**
74 **driver's license disqualification under section 302.755.**

75 **8. The state preempts the field of regulating the use of hand-held electronic**
76 **wireless communications devices by the operators of motor vehicles, and the provisions**
77 **of this section shall supersede any local laws, ordinances, orders, rules, or regulations**
78 **enacted by a county, municipality, or other political subdivision to regulate the use of**
79 **hand-held electronic wireless communications devices by the operator of a motor**
80 **vehicle.**

81 **9. Notwithstanding any provision in this section to the contrary, no person less**
82 **than eighteen years of age, or with an instruction permit or intermediate license**
83 **regardless of age, shall use an electronic wireless communications device, regardless of**
84 **whether such device is hands-free, while operating a motor vehicle on the highways of**
85 **this state, except to contact emergency services.**

2 ~~[304.820. 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person~~
3 ~~twenty-one years of age or younger operating a moving motor vehicle upon~~
4 ~~the highways of this state shall, by means of a hand-held electronic wireless~~
5 ~~communications device, send, read, or write a text message or electronic~~
6 ~~message.~~

7 ~~2. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person shall operate~~
8 ~~a commercial motor vehicle while using a hand-held mobile telephone.~~

8 3. ~~Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person shall operate~~
9 ~~a commercial motor vehicle while using a wireless communications device to~~
10 ~~send, read, or write a text message or electronic message.~~

11 4. ~~The provisions of subsection 1 through subsection 3 of this section~~
12 ~~shall not apply to a person operating:~~

13 (1) ~~An authorized emergency vehicle; or~~

14 (2) ~~A moving motor vehicle while using a hand-held electronic~~
15 ~~wireless communications device to:~~

16 (a) ~~Report illegal activity;~~

17 (b) ~~Summon medical or other emergency help;~~

18 (c) ~~Prevent injury to a person or property; or~~

19 (d) ~~Relay information between a transit or for hire operator and that~~
20 ~~operator's dispatcher, in which the device is permanently affixed to the vehicle.~~

21 5. ~~Nothing in this section shall be construed or interpreted as~~
22 ~~prohibiting a person from making or taking part in a telephone call, by means~~
23 ~~of a hand-held electronic wireless communications device, while operating a~~
24 ~~noncommercial motor vehicle upon the highways of this state.~~

25 6. ~~As used in this section, "electronic message" means a self-contained~~
26 ~~piece of digital communication that is designed or intended to be transmitted~~
27 ~~between hand-held electronic wireless communication devices. "Electronic~~
28 ~~message" includes, but is not limited to, electronic mail, a text message, an~~
29 ~~instant message, or a command or request to access an internet site.~~

30 7. ~~As used in this section, "hand-held electronic wireless~~
31 ~~communications device" includes any hand-held cellular phone, palm pilot,~~
32 ~~blackberry, or other mobile electronic device used to communicate verbally or~~
33 ~~by text or electronic messaging, but shall not apply to any device that is~~
34 ~~permanently embedded into the architecture and design of the motor vehicle.~~

35 8. ~~As used in this section, "making or taking part in a telephone call"~~
36 ~~means listening to or engaging in verbal communication through a hand-held~~
37 ~~electronic wireless communication device.~~

38 9. ~~As used in this section, "send, read, or write a text message or~~
39 ~~electronic message" means using a hand-held electronic wireless~~
40 ~~telecommunications device to manually communicate with any person by~~
41 ~~using an electronic message. Sending, reading, or writing a text message or~~
42 ~~electronic message does not include reading, selecting, or entering a phone~~
43 ~~number or name into a hand-held electronic wireless communications device~~
44 ~~for the purpose of making a telephone call.~~

45 10. ~~A violation of this section shall be deemed an infraction and shall~~
46 ~~be deemed a moving violation for purposes of point assessment under section~~
47 ~~302.302.~~

48 11. ~~The state preempts the field of regulating the use of hand held~~
49 ~~electronic wireless communications devices in motor vehicles, and the~~
50 ~~provisions of this section shall supercede any local laws, ordinances, orders,~~
51 ~~rules, or regulations enacted by a county, municipality, or other political~~
52 ~~subdivision to regulate the use of hand-held electronic wireless~~
53 ~~communication devices by the operator of a motor vehicle.~~

54 12. ~~The provisions of this section shall not apply to:~~

55 (1) ~~The operator of a vehicle that is lawfully parked or stopped;~~

56 ~~(2) Any of the following while in the performance of their official~~
57 ~~duties: a law enforcement officer; a member of a fire department; or the~~
58 ~~operator of a public or private ambulance;~~
59 ~~(3) The use of factory installed or aftermarket global positioning~~
60 ~~systems (GPS) or wireless communications devices used to transmit or receive~~
61 ~~data as part of a digital dispatch system;~~
62 ~~(4) The use of voice-operated technology;~~
63 ~~(5) The use of two-way radio transmitters or receivers by a licensee of~~
64 ~~the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service.]~~

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